The House reassembled after lunch at one minute past two of the Clock,

The Vice-Chairman (*Shri suresh Pachouri)* in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Deposits with Commercial Banks

*2. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in deposits with the scheduled commercial banks;

(b) whether the fall in deposits is direct impact of recent decision to cut down the interest rates on deposits; and

(c) if so, whether the Government would reconsider the interest structure in these banks in order to attract more deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Deposits of scheduled commercial banks have not recorded any decline. On the contrary, deposits of scheduled commercial banks during the year 2001-2002 have increased from Rs.9,62,618 crore as on March 23, 2001 to Rs.10,78,971 crore as on February 8, 2002.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

VRS for associate Banks of SBI

3. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various employees of the associated banks of the State Bank of India who have submitted

their applications for VRS on 31st March, 2001, have not been considered as 10 per cent of the staff strength despite clear instructions issued by Government in this regard;

(b) if so, the details of such employees whose applications have not been considered by the banks, bank-wise and region-wise;

(c) by when the remaining applications are likely to be considered in view of the instructions; and

(d) by when VRS policy is likely to be opened again for the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was designed with the objective of rightsizing the manpower of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) without affecting their functioning adversely. Banks were advised that before introduction of VRS, they thould prepare Manpower Plans to assess the exact requirement of manpower in different categories and to decide the number of employees that could be granted VRS. No percentage was fixed with regard to the number of applications to be accepted by PSBs under the Scheme. Bank managements were required to accept/reject the applications depending upon their needs. The main reasons for rejection of applications were (i) ineligibility as per conditions of the Scheme and (ii) applications in excess of the assessed surplus. Out of 10,714 applications received by the Associate Banks of SBI, 1087 applications were subsequently withdrawn. 7314 applications were accepted which account for around 9% of the total staff strength of these banks. All the applications received by the Banks have been considered by them and appropriate decision taken thereon. Bank-wise available details of applications rejected is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(d) At present there is no proposal for re-opening the VRS.

Statement

Details of employees whose applications were not accepted under Voluntary Retirement Scheme

Name of the Bank	Name of the Zone	No. of Applications Rejected
1	2	3
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	Jodhpur	86
	Bikaner	93
	Udaipur	86
	Jaipur	116
	Delhi	63
	Mumbai	46
	Head Office	53
	TOTAL:	543
State Bank of Hyderabad	Aurangabad	73
	Hyderabad	174
	Secunderabad	154
	Warangal	53
	Vizhag	21
	Mumbai	63
	Gulbarga	71
	Head Office	148
	TOTAL:	757
State Bank of Indore	Bhopal	75
	Indore	203
	Mumbai	46
	Head Office	41
	TOTAL:	365

1	2	3
State Bank of Mysore	Bangalore	70
	Central	56
	Mysore	35
	Hubli	34
	Head Office	31
	TOTAL:	226
State Bank of Patiala	Delhi	50
	Bathinda	14
	Haryana	37
	Patiala	56
	Mumbai	7
	Jalandhar	49
	Chandigarh	28
	Head Office	33
	TOTAL:	274
State Bank of Saurashtra	Ahmedabad	35
	Bhavnagar	15
	Rajkot	31
	Head Office	26
	TOTAL:	107
State Bank of Travancore	Trivandrum (Including Head Office)	15
	Kottayam	3
	Ernakulam	9
	Kozhikode	8
	Chennai	5
	TOTAL:	40